

## **Disablement pensions (Invalidity benefits) - Resumé**

As I am interested in the situation of disabled people and the ability of the community to take care properly of these needy people I decided to write a thesis on the subject of disablement pensions (or invalidity benefits). The aim of this thesis was to give a reader an overview of how different countries regulate the conditions under which invalidity benefits are provided. At the same time I would like to describe in detail and evaluate above named national legislations in the same structure, if possible.

The first chapter deals with historical aspects. After the origins of social security are mentioned, I already focus on the historical development of invalidity benefits' legislation in european and czech context. The next chapter is an analysis of invalidity benefits at the international level. Especially the achievements of the International Labour Organization, the Council of Europe and the European Union in the field of disablement pensions are highlighted. It is completed by a brief description of bilateral agreements on social security.

The third chapter, which is the largest one included in this thesis, examines the czech legislation regarding the invalidity benefits. First of all the issue of the pension insurance in general is outlined. The next sections of this chapter point out the definition of disability as well as assessment of disability. The following part of the study is about the conditions of entitlement to czech invalidity benefits. The very next section deals with the organizational structure, the proceedings, the judicial review of decisions as well as the liability within the czech social security system. The end of this chapter focuses on the necessary pension reform in the Czech Republic.

In the fourth chapter, the reader can find the overview of the provision of invalidity benefits in 8 selected European Union countries.

What concerns the results and conclusions I have arrived at they are as follows. The invalidity benefits were introduced long before the emergence of today's modern systems of social security. Originally, the disablement pensions were available to a relatively small group of war invalids. But the personal range of these benefits gradually widened and today we can talk about their personal universality. Furthermore, we can state that currently there are quite detailed legislations regarding the invalidity benefits. The czech legislation of the social security in general is unfortunately an example of ill-conceived regulation. There is no complex code regarding the social security (as is the case of Germany or France), let alone the disablement pensions.

The original aim of this thesis was to give a very detailed overview of invalidity benefits' legislations across the chosen countries. But as there are significant differences in the schemes of social security, inclusion of the invalidity benefits into individual subsystems of social security as well as the conditions for the provision of invalidity benefits, the overview of national legislations could not be given in the same structure in the appropriate parts of this study regarding individual countries. The relevant websites of European Commission ([ec.europa.eu/social](http://ec.europa.eu/social)) give an overview of social security rights across European Union countries. These websites only confirm the impossibility of making the overview of situation across the countries in the same structure.

One of significant characteristics of the invalidity benefits can be a certain instability. In most countries there is a regular assesment of disability and thus the invalidity benefits may be withdrawn in any moment. In the case of current situation of disablement pensions in the Czech republic there is a trend of decreasing the number of these benefits in the last two years (2010 – 2011).